

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Poland

REPORT

PIC Troops and Military Installations in Gleiwitz (Gleiwitz)

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EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     TE OF CONTENT                     TE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 10 June 1954REFERENCES                     GES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     MARKS                                          This is UNEVALUATED Information                     

1. Prior to August 1953, Polish tank troops, one AAA unit and one AT unit were observed in the former Infanterie Kaserne on the southwest side of former Luedendorff Strasse, about 500 meters south of the main cemetery in Gleiwitz (Q 51/Y 37). About 20 T-34 tanks, which were arranged in two lines, were observed in the area of the installation. The same tanks were frequently observed driving toward Richtersdorf (Q 51/X 37). Source stated that this unit had arrived at Gleiwitz by rail only in the summer of 1953. The tank troops, who were on active service, wore blue gray uniforms with black epaulets and visor-type service caps with black bands. The AAA unit stationed at the same installation had about 12 model 38 76-mm AA guns. On 22 July 1953, the Polish Liberation Day, these guns were displayed at a demonstration in the city area. They were towed by trucks which were occupied by the crews wearing khaki uniforms with red service color. Since the summer of 1953, seven to ten 76-mm AA guns had been observed emplaced, about 2.5 km northwest of the installation, north of the autobahn and east of the intersection of the autobahn and the Laband (Q 51/X 38) road. The crews bivouacked in tents. Boards inscribed "Teren Wojskowy" (military area) were set up in this area. A woods of young deciduous trees was located east of the emplacements. Source believed that the guns came from the abovementioned barracks installation. At least eight two-wheeled pneumatic-tired long-barreled guns were observed with the AT unit when it moved to the barracks installation from the freight station in the summer of 1953. Source believed that all troops quartered in the former Infanterie Kaserne had moved to Gleiwitz not before the summer of 1953. 1
2. The athletic field of the Gleiwitz veterans' athletic association was located just southeast of the former Infanterie Kaserne, on the north side of ul. Sowinskiego (formerly Luederitz Strasse?). The veterans' athletic association had the designation (O.W.K.S.); Okregowy Wojskowy Klub Sportowy. The Polish officers' mess was located east of the stadium and on the same side of the street.

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- 2 -

3. The former Neue Artillerie Kaserne, just southwest of the former Infanterie Kaserne, housed the chemical plant "Fabryka Odczynnikow Chemicznych". The former barracks installation had been subjected to numerous changes and included many newly constructed installations so that it was apparently not intended to use this site again for military purposes. Similar observations and conclusions were made with regard to the former Alte Artillerie Kaserne in the northeastern sector of the city, on the east side of former Stadtwald Strasse, just south of the cemetery, which housed a "Technikum Chemisches".
4. Prior to August 1953, the former Ulanen Kaserne in the southwestern sector of the city, beside the radio station and north of ul. Daszynskiego (formerly Raudener Strasse), was occupied mainly by Polish border guard troops. Soldiers wearing green service color were frequently observed in the streets of Gleiwitz. Once, two companies were observed marching toward the training ground near Richtersdorf. The units were equipped with light machine guns with disc magazines and small arms. The border-guard unit, which consisted of young classes on active service, had trucks and motorcycles. The same installation also housed interrogation teams which handled illegal border crossers and smugglers. The same billets also quartered a small unit whose members wore blue cap bands. 2
5. Prior to the summer of 1953, the former Keith Kaserne on the southwest side of ul. Kosciuszki (formerly Friedrich Strasse) in the southwestern sector of the city was occupied by Polish army troops. The billeting area was bounded to the northwest by ul. Zawiszy Czarnego (phonetic spelling; formerly Kelta Strasse) and to the southeast by ul. Zygmunta Starego (formerly Tuschert Strasse) and included the site of the former German Army Proviantamt (ration supply depot), which adjoined to the southwest and had been vacated and turned over to the armed forces by the government-controlled motor-traffic association (PKS). Numerous Polish soldiers wearing khaki uniforms with red service color were quartered in a large four- or five-story brick building on ul. Kosciuszki. The motor vehicles, mainly trucks and some jeeps, were housed in the former PKS garages. No heavy weapons were observed. However, the troops guarded a small yard which was used for the storage of timber such as beams, round timber, posts, boards, etc. No specific engineer equipment was observed. Polish officers were constantly seen at a building located southeast of the quartering buildings and extending as far as ul. Zygmunta Starego. Some sedans were mostly seen waiting in front of these premises. The Polish post hospital, which was located in the former German Polizeipraesidium (police headquarters) and fronted ul. Zygmunta Starego, adjoined this site. The building was marked with a signboard indicating its use. In the area of the former German Army Proviantamt, which adjoined the area of the post hospital to the southwest, one building, which was separated by a fence from the Polish billets, was occupied by Soviet signal troops. Prior to the fall of 1953, source observed wires as used for overhead lines, climbers, and other signal equipment there. He also saw Soviet soldiers constructing telephone lines along the autobahn. 3
6. Numerous Polish officers were observed in the former transmitting house of the Gleiwitz radio station near ul. Radiowa, in the vicinity of the former Ulanen Kaserne. Ul. Radiowa was closed to civilian traffic. Numerous motor vehicles were parked on this street at all times. Officers observed on this site wore red service color. Source learned from hearsay that this installation quartered a Polish army headquarters which had allegedly arrived in about 1952. It was undetermined whether this agency was a headquarters or a komendatura. In 1953,

CONFIDENTIAL

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- 3 -

a minor Polish office had been established in a villa on the southeast side of ul. Sobieskiego (formerly Schwerin Strasse) opposite the civilian hospital, not far from the former Keith Kaserne. Officers wearing red service color were repeatedly observed at this office. However, traffic there was light in comparison with that observed on ul. Radzwa. 4

7. A cantonment quartering members of the Polish Labor Service was located in the woods north of the city, about 1,200 meters north of the autobahn, on the east side of former Toster Strasse, which led to Peiskretscham (Q 51/Y 38). The labor servicemen were assigned clearing, levelling and other construction missions in the wooded area north of the cantonment. In the summer of 1953, a large tank proving ground, which had been laid out in this area near Waldenau (Q 51/Y 38), was still under construction. In the area was a concrete road forming an oval, whose longitudinal diameter was over 1 kilometer long. Other concrete roads were available within this oval. Source stated that they were used to break in and prove tanks manufactured in Laband. He also observed tanks which were broken in on the autobahn. Some of the tanks observed in this area were still painted red with anti-corrosive paint. 5
8. The training area of the Polish units stationed at this post was located southwest of the city and southeast of Richtersdorf and included target ranges. An obstacle course with walls for escalade practices, pits, communication trenches, wire entanglements, etc., which was continuously used for training purposes, was located on Flac Grunwaldski (formerly Preussen Platz), west of the former Keith Kaserne. A Soviet military cemetery was located on the same square. The former training ground near Petersdorf in the northeastern sector of the city was no longer used. Labor servicemen practiced at the target ranges on the edge of the woods northwest of Groeling Borough. Pre-military marksmanship training was also given at the target ranges.

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1. Comment. The units cannot be identified. The ordnance of the AAA unit indicates that this unit approximately corresponds to a medium AAA regiment of the Soviet Army and possibly belongs to the air defense system. The tank unit and the AT unit probably belong to the 7th Inf Div whose headquarters is carried in Gleiwitz. No previous report indicated that there were changes of the occupation of this station in the summer of 1953.

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2. Comment. The headquarters of the WOP (border-guard) brigade carried in Gleiwitz is apparently located at this installation. The blue cup cars tend to indicate that a small KBW (internal security) unit is also stationed at the post.

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3. Comment. The present report apparently is the first complete detailed information on the billeting area on Tuschert Strasse. It is undetermined whether component units of the 33d Inf Regt of the 7th Inf Div are still stationed at the installation or whether an engineer unit is located there instead.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

4. Comment. The information on military headquarters and offices is so vague that these agencies cannot be identified. It is undetermined whether only the headquarters of the 7th Inf Div or also the headquarters of an army corps, which is assumed there on the grounds of other reports, is stationed at the post.
5. Comment. In the spring of 1952, this camp was allegedly still unoccupied. The existence of large steel plant in Libanad was known previously.
6. Comment. This information confirms numerous previous reports which indicated that the bulk of the 1933 class was inducted in the fall of 1953. It is not unusual that portions of this class should have been inducted still in the spring of 1954. Although the law provides for a term of service of only two years it is usual that specialists of all branches of service are discharged only after two-and-a-half to three years.

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